

## TIM'S 500FT. PIT

It was one of those. One of those caves where the story is longer than the cave. One of those where we spent longer searching for the cave than we spent surveying it. One of those caves that didn't quite fit the description of the local resident who told us about it. And one of those caves that just didn't live up to expectations.

While ridgewalking on Greenpond Ridge, we had run across Tim, who lived on the road to Sheriffs Pit. He described a cave that was '500 foot deep' and knew it was so because he had to get extra rope from the hardware store to drop his lantern down to the bottom.

On the way home John Neack and I

discussed what would happen if we really did find a 500 foot pit in Rockcastle - When I ordered the rope Buddy Lane would deliver it in person, Marion Smith would be our friend, we would have TAG trash hanging around GSP.

We didn't think there was much chance of it happening, but John and I saddled up and followed the directions. And got lost. Then Bob Dobbs tried to follow the directions, and got lost. I tried again - and got lost. Then Bob and I tried, and both got lost. I gave up. I had seen the same hillside 4 times, and didn't find much that looked like a cave.

Bob finally kidnapped Tims dad, and found the cave from the opposite direction. When he and Ron Crawford explored it, all they found was a 50 foot

pit - less than we had expected. Bob was kind enough to post signs on trees to help the less fortunate - me.

Dennis Englert, Mary Gratsch, and I went back, and took about 2 hours survey the whole thing - the pit actually weighed in at 43 feet. The drop was beautiful, and if raining will take some water - I'll go back then. The lower level ends in a dry crawl to one side, and a muddy room to the other, where all the water drains through the floor. Mary and I spent some time pushing a high lead that didn't go - oh well.

Typical Rockcastle: Short Cave - Long Story.

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